

will only continue to grow until we reverse course. As if that amount were not difficult enough to comprehend, it is expected that when the new total is released later this month, it is likely to be over \$56 trillion.

Over and over again there are warning signs that something is terribly wrong in our economy. You may have read recently that China now tops Japan in U.S. debt holdings, amounting to about 1 out of every 10 American dollars. In my opinion there is no greater wake up call than China—a government who persecutes its own people because of their faith—slowly becoming our banker.

This is an economic, moral, and generational issue. I think about sitting on my front porch someday and telling my grandchildren about my days serving in Congress. It isn't right for us to look the other way while out-of-control entitlement spending threatens the way future generations will live.

George Washington said that, "Worry is the interest paid by those who borrow trouble."

I worry that Congress isn't up to its job, and we will allow our children and grandchildren to languish in a political divide. The SAFE Commission process gives us the necessary push to get the job done.

We are at the point of no return in our nation's history. We have hard questions to answer. Are we willing to make the sacrifices necessary so that future generations will have even greater opportunities than today?

National syndicated columnist Robert Samuelson recently wrote, "The great project of the next president is to improve the economy's stability without subverting its vitality." Make no mistake, autopilot entitlement spending is slowly undermining America as we know it.

Isabel Sawhill, senior fellow at The Brookings Institution, has likened this situation to "termites in the woodwork, slowly eroding our strength as a nation."

Congress must do the right thing for the American people. Support the SAFE effort, and if there are other bipartisan proposals that could pass Congress, let's look at those, too.

But we just can't continue the current course.

#### A TRIBUTE TO YVONNE NIXON-ORR

### HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 10, 2008

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute and to honor Yvonne Nixon-Orr. In 1970, Yvonne immigrated to the United States and has resided in Brooklyn, New York. Soon after her arrival, she began teaching at the Haitian American Day Care Center, and later joined the New York City Department of Education (NYCDOE) where she has been teaching for more than 25 years. Middle School 61 in District 17 is where her career with the NYCDOE began as a literacy instructor for 6th and 7th graders. All along, she maintained her volunteering as a Sunday school teacher and an assistant youth coordinator at her local church, planning and implementing activities for the youth of the community.

Yvonne Nixon-Orr is presently the school librarian at P.S. 181, The John Steptoe School

in Brooklyn, working with students from Grades K through 8. In her functions, she helps students to develop a love for books and multicultural literature. In her teaching, she imparts skills that incorporate literacy, social studies, and the arts. Yvonne is passionate about imparting a love for learning and moral responsibility to the youngsters she encounters in the Public School system classrooms. In her role as a staff developer, she shares instructional techniques and skills with colleagues, mentors and assists new teachers with methodology, classroom management, and facilitates their transition to the New York public school system. Through her dedication and hard work as an educator, she has touched many lives and has equally had her own life enriched by working with colleagues, students, and families from diverse cultural and linguistic backgrounds.

Yvonne Nixon-Orr holds an Associate Degree of Science from New York City Technical College, a Bachelor of Arts from Brooklyn College of the City University of New York (CUNY), and a Master's Degree in Elementary Education from Adelphi University. Her post-graduate education focus has been in literacy development. She continues to enhance her knowledge of education and teaching skills by reading and attending professional workshops and seminars that expand on the latest development in literacy and the best approaches to teaching and learning in the 21st century.

Madam Speaker, I would like to recognize Yvonne Nixon-Orr for her extraordinary contributions to education in New York City.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Yvonne Nixon-Orr.

#### TRIBUTE TO THE ST. ANTHONY BULLDOGS GIRLS GOLF TEAM

### HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 10, 2008

Mr. SHIMKUS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an outstanding group of young women from Effingham, IL.

The St. Anthony Bulldogs Girls Golf Team took State Championship honors October 18, knocking off runner-up Champaign St. Thomas More by 10 strokes to capture their second consecutive State title. The conclusion marked a rally from a seventh place standing midway through the State Championship competition.

I want to send my congratulations and those of the House to Coach Kevin Behl and the members of the St. Anthony Bulldogs State Championship Team: Kelli Griffin, Kelly McHugh, Lauren Kabbes, Emily Calhoon, Taylor Behl, Jackie Wortman, and Shelby Spruell. We are all inspired by their dedication, their courage in the face of adversity, and their determination not to give up, even when trailing going into the final day of competition. Their victory is one which will long be remembered in the storied history of St. Anthony, and their back to back titles will stand as a statewide tribute to their devotion to excellence.

#### A TRIBUTE TO MICHAEL NONNAN HAYNES

### HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 10, 2008

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute and to honor Michael Nonnan Haynes. Mr. Haynes, a Brooklyn native, earned his Bachelor's Degree in Mathematics from Northwestern University. He later began a career at the Chicago Mercantile Exchange, becoming the first African-American Senior Director of Clearing House Operations there.

Mr. Haynes, in 1990, shifted his career focus from supporting people's financial pursuits to supporting people coping with the emergent HIV/AIDS pandemic. One of Mr. Haynes' proudest moments as Director of African American Services for Stop AIDS Chicago was when he provided HIV/AIDS prevention education for a Youth Summit at Operation PUSH.

Mr. Haynes continued his quest to serve by moving to Santa Fe to work for a workshop that changed his life, The Experience. This personal growth and empowerment workshop gave him new tools and refined what his tight-knit circle of support (family, extended family and friends) had taught him about "being" with people. Santa Fe is also where Mr. Haynes became infected with HIV.

While this might have sidetracked another, it only empowered Mr. Haynes' desire to give back even more. Currently, he works for the New York City Health and Hospitals Corporation as an Assistant Director in the Office of Behavioral Health. In this capacity, he has spearheaded innovations in chemical dependency treatment as they concern the eleven public hospitals, including Woodhull, Kings County, and Coney Island hospitals. Honored as a Join Together National Leadership Fellow by Boston University's School of Public Health, Mr. Haynes has championed the implementation of cutting edge, researched based practices that effectively lead Brooklyn and city-wide residents through chemical dependency treatment and onto the road to recovery.

These contributions to the Brooklyn healthcare community over the past 13 years, are evident, but none more personal or visible than Haynes' face and prevention message on billboards, bus shelters, and subway stations throughout New York City and worldwide through the internet as part of the HIV Stops With Me campaign.

Madam Speaker, I would like to recognize Michael Nonnan Haynes for his extraordinary accomplishments in HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment efforts.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Michael Nonnan Haynes.

#### TRIBUTE TO THE SUNY CORTLAND MEN'S CROSS COUNTRY TEAM

### HON. MICHAEL A. ARCURI

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 10, 2008

Mr. ARCURI. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the State University of New

York (SUNY) Cortland Men's Cross Country Team, which won its first ever national title on November 22. During the NCAA Division III Championships at Hanover College in Hanover, Indiana, the Cortland Red Dragons beat 31 competitors with a score of 80 points. The team solidly outpaced the second and third place finishers who scored 115 and 129 points, respectively, and improved on their previous finishes of fourth in 2006 and third in 2007 to win this year's title.

Four of the team's runners earned All-America honors by finishing in the top 35 competitors over the 8,000-meter course. Junior Seth DuBois finished seventh; senior Shamus Nally, 11th; senior Josh Henry, 15th; and junior Justin Wager, 28th.

The team was led by first year head coach Steve Patrick and assistant coaches Kathryn Wagner and Jacob Smith. Coach Patrick was named the 2008 Division III Men's Cross Country National Coach of the Year by the United States Track & Field and Cross Country Coaches Association (USTFCCCA).

Overall, the win marks SUNY Cortland's 22nd national team title, including 16 NCAA crowns in seven different sports.

Madam Speaker, I am honored to represent such skilled and hard-working athletes in my district. Please join me in congratulating the team and wishing them the best of luck in their future athletic and scholarly pursuits.

A TRIBUTE TO EBONE E.  
MCINTOSH

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 10, 2008*

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute and to honor Ebone E. McIntosh. In 2004, Ms. McIntosh was appointed Vice President of Administration at the Interfaith Medical Center in Brooklyn. She was administratively responsible for the Departments of Ambulatory Care, Community Relations, and the hospital's Private Practice initiative. During her first two years, Ms. McIntosh worked tirelessly to improve the community's perception of Interfaith Medical Center by working with Community Board members, clergy, and primary care physicians in the immediate catchment. The hospital expanded its community outreach efforts through its participation in community health fairs, treatment adherence initiatives, and patient education. The hospital also became actively involved in HIV/AIDS programs, Adult and Pediatric Sickle Cell grants, and Breast Cancer awareness through the Susan G. Komen Foundation and Killough Trust.

Ms. McIntosh, in early 2007, assumed more operational responsibilities at the hospital, taking on hospital support services including Security, Food and Nutrition, Patient Relations, and Construction Management. Within months, a new hospitality-driven model of guest relations was in place, including daily newspaper delivery, the provision of amenities kits, and personal choice dining; accommodations many of the patients at IMC had never experienced. Given the medically underserved population and the reliance on the Emergency Department for the primary care needs of the hospital's core population, Ms. McIntosh soon

assumed control of the Department of Emergency Services. Under her leadership, the EMS turn around time, patient satisfaction, and overall patient flow significantly improved.

Ms. McIntosh, prior to joining Interfaith, was the Senior Administrator for the Departments of Neurology, OB/GYN, and Pediatrics at the Columbia University Harlem Hospital Center. She was active in the application and approval process for their designated stroke center, was the Grants Coordinator for the Institutional Review Board, and has served briefly as the Residency Coordinator in Diagnostic Radiology.

Madam Speaker, I would like to recognize Ms. Ebone E. McIntosh for her extraordinary accomplishments in improving health care at the Interfaith Medical Center and across New York City.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Ms. Ebone E. McIntosh.

HONORING DR. THOMAS  
FRIEDRICH GEORGE

HON. W. TODD AKIN

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 10, 2008*

Mr. AKIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize one of our Missouri University Chancellors. Several weeks ago, Dr. Thomas Friedrich George was honored by the University of Szeged in Hungary. Chancellor George was awarded the honorary title Doctor Honoris Causa by the University of Szeged in recognition of his outstanding and cooperative scientific work that has been carried out in support of the University of Szeged over many years.

While serving as Chancellor at the University of Missouri—St. Louis, Chancellor George also serves as a professor of chemistry and physics and researcher in chemical, materials and laser physics at the University.

This recognition of Chancellor George is not only a significant personal achievement; it is also an honor for the University of Missouri System and the St. Louis region.

I am pleased to be able to honor Chancellor George today. He is a shining example of the great leadership we have in Missouri and I know all of my colleagues join me in congratulating him on this distinguished honor.

HONORING OAKHURST CHAMBER  
OF COMMERCE

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 10, 2008*

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Oakhurst Chamber of Commerce upon the celebration of their 50th Anniversary. The anniversary will be celebrated at the Annual Installation Diner and Dance to be held on December 5, 2008 at the Pines Resort in Bass Lake, California.

Over the past fifty years, the Oakhurst Chamber of Commerce has been committed to it Mission Statement "To promote and support the economic vitality while honoring and

preserving the unique lifestyles of our Mountain Communities." The Oakhurst Chamber of Commerce in conjunction with its Board of Directors, the Eastern Madera County Chamber of Commerce Foundation and the many committees that have been established over the years, has been responsible for the completion of many community projects and achievements. These accomplishments have revolved around promoting business and tourism, community development, government issues and education.

For fifty years the Chamber has worked diligently to promote the businesses, large and small, in Eastern Madera County. Today, it has over four hundred members. The Chamber has developed member to member programs, networking and "shop locally" campaigns to strengthen, nurture and build the local businesses. It has been a strong advocate for the New Downtown Project that is envisioned to be a pedestrian friendly area for visitors and locals and will include a visitors center, shopping, entertainment and dining. To keep the community and visitors apprised of what is going on in Eastern Madera County, the Chamber maintains an up to the minute, interactive website. It also provides visitors with a directory of local businesses and is responsible for creating the official regional street map for Eastern Madera County. The Chamber plays a vital role in welcoming visitors and recruiting new businesses to the area. Often, the Chamber serves as a first impression for the entire community. It has worked to make this impression warm, welcoming and professional. By providing these services, the Oakhurst Chamber of Commerce has created events that have drawn thousands of visitors to the area. The events that it promotes include the Oakhurst Peddlers Fair, the Fall Festival, the Automotive Film Festival, and the Wood Carvers Rendezvous.

The Chamber hosts annual planning conferences with local business leaders and government officials to maintain a sense of cohesion and to discuss key economic indicators and to define the needs of the community. These conferences help all of the members work together toward a common goal that will help shape the community. In the past these goals have included working with various levels of government or providing various community projects. The Education, Beautification, Economic Development, and Tourism Committees have worked together to create better programs and services for the entire community; including a community park with the formation of non profit to run it. The Emergency Preparedness Committee has created and implemented emergency plans for fire, water and power outages, natural disasters and chemical hazards. Working with county and state officials on the infrastructure of the area, the Chamber has played an integral part in water, sewer and other detail area plans. The Chamber's work provided a new sewer plant for Oakhurst, in obtaining a one million dollar grant for the continued development of a water source in the area and a four million dollar loan through the California Public Utilities Commission for Hillview Water. The Chamber and the Foundation has funded and built over one million dollars worth of sidewalks on Highway 41 in Oakhurst. It has also endorsed and raised support for the "Action to Incorporate Oakhurst Now" and has provided education to the community about the benefits of incorporating the area.